

Massachusetts Coalitions

HHS/DOE

- Federal Funding for LIHEAP and WAP is awarded to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- DHCD contracts with 22 Local Administering Agencies to administer LIHEAP (fuel assistance), Weatherization and Heating repair/replacement
 - x 20 Community Action Agencies
 - 2 local/city non-profits to administer fuel assistance

GOAL

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- Created close to 40 years ago
- To address specific low income energy issues
- Some ad hoc to address situations immediately
- Some coalitions are still operating and meet on a regular basis.

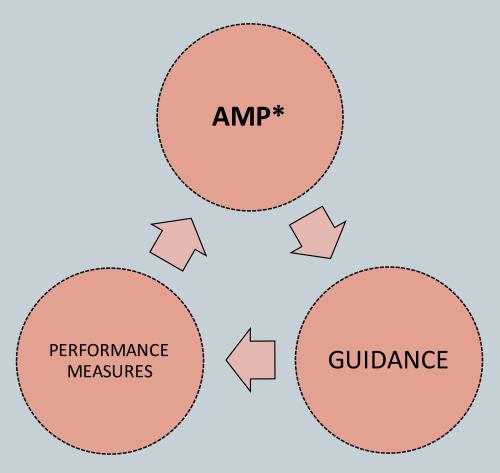
Members have included

- LIHEAP, WAP and Heartwap Directors
- CAA Executive Directors
- Stakeholders
- DHCD (Grantee for Energy Programs)
- Other state agencies, i.e. DPU, AG's office, Elder Affairs, etc.

- MEDA
- DHCD Advisory Group
- Guidance Committee
- AMP
- Performance Measures Workgroup
- LEAN
- Best Practices Group

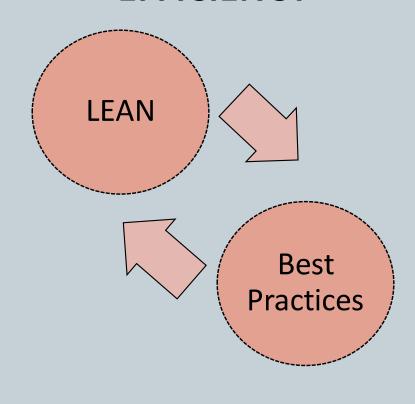
Mass. Energy Directors Association: MEDA

LIHEAP/FUEL



*Arrearage Management Program

WEATHERIZATION EFFICIENCY



Mass. Energy Directors Association: MEDA

Members

- LIHEAP Directors and Coordinators
- Weatherization Directors and Coordinators
- Heating System Repair Program (HWAP)
 Directors and Coordinators
- Utility Company Efficiency Program Directors and lead agency management staff

Meeting content

- Monthly updates for all energy programs
- Best practice sharing
- Guest speakers
- DHCD representation
- Mentoring sessions for new directors

Mission

- One consistent message
- Rate case interveners
- Testify at public hearings to advocate for our clients
- Federal & State advocacy for funding
- Assist DHCD with annual LHEAP training content
- Review and provide both formal and informal testimony on annual state plan

DHCD Advisory Group Members

- Mass Association of Community Action Programs (MASSCAP)
 Members
- Mass Energy Directors Association (MEDA)Co-Chairs
- Energy Directors
- National Consumer Law Center
- Mass Attorney General's Office
- Department of Public Utilities
- Utility Companies
- Mass Energy Marketers
- DHCD Staff from Fuel Assistance, WAP, HWAP, Fiscal and Legal departments

DHCD Advisory Group

Role

 Advise DHCD regarding policies directly impacting the smooth operation of LIHEAP/WAP/HWAP

Goals

- Act as a working collaborative to ensure clients will receive the maximum benefits allowed.
- Make recommendations regarding policy and benefit disbursement.
- Review statewide program statistics, expenditures and program closeout activities
- Discuss and support statewide outreach activities
- Assist DHCD with outside inquiries regarding the validity of program operations
- Meetings are held quarterly

Guidance Committee

Members

- DHCD State LIHEAP Director
- DHCD legal representative
- DHCD LIHEAP program monitors
- LIHEAP directors representing six (6) distinct areas of the state

Meeting Content

- Review LIHEAP Program Directors' Guide for Directors responsibilities
- Review LIHEAP Administrative Guidance for Program Operators for any inconsistencies
- Discuss recommendations from MEDA
- Discuss changes proposed by DHCD
- Discuss legal protocols for any recommendations

Arrearage Management Programs: AMP

Members

- Masscap Energy Liaison
- MEDA Co-Chairs
- LIHEAP Directors from six areas of the state
- LEAN legal counsel
- NCLC, DPU, AG representative, Utility company personnel, State LIHEAP Director

Meeting Content

- Fuel Assistance Updates
- Shut off season discussions
- Rate case updates
- Review of AMP Data
- Specific Utility Company Issues
- Outreach Coordination
 Plans

Performance Measures Workgroup

Members

- Statewide LIHEAP Directors
- DHCD State
 LIHEAP Director
 and Staff
- Statewide computer software provider

Goals

- Review federal performance requirements
- Develop action plans to meet the requirements

Outcomes

- Changed LIHEAP application to capture data required under new performance measures for HHS
- Trained LIHEAP staff statewide to collect required information
- Implemented software enhancements
- Worked with all vendors (required many meetings with regulated utility company personnel – programmatic and IT)
- Created methods to collect consumption data from both utility and deliverable companies

Low Income Energy Affordability Network: LEAN

Members

- Representatives from government (DHCD)
- Representatives from agency utility-funded energy efficiency programs (CAA's)
- LEAN legal counsel
- National Consumer Law Center

Meeting Content

- Updates from LIHEAP given by LEAN members
- Updates from DHCD Energy Program Director
- Discussions of energy saving measures
- Strategize to ensure low income clients are living in efficient and healthy homes and are able to afford energy
- New creative ideas to strengthen the cost savings for low-income consumers
- Required production goals

Low Income Energy Affordability Network: LEAN

Goals

- Ensure coordination among:
 - Electric & Gas Program Administrators,
 - Energy Efficiency Advisory Council & DHCD
 - Potential vendors outside the low income weatherization network for certain segments of the low income residential market (ex: large multifamily buildings)

Tasks

- Monitor and evaluate existing programs to improve cost-effectiveness and develop new program features
- Develop/provide training of the low income weatherization network's employees and contractors with the objective of delivering high-quality installation of energy measures costs effectively

Goals

 Provide Regulatory support in proceedings before the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

Best Practices

Members

- Weatherization and heating system repair program technicians and administrators
- Utility efficiency administrators
- DHCD
- LEAN legal counsel
- Consultants

Goals

- Ensure that the best products and procedures are available for low income efficiency programs
- Introduction of new technologies
- Discuss measures to address electric efficiency

Goals

- Ensure consistent knowledge base of the program from technical staff across the state
- Ensure the best procedures are in place to maximize efficiency for low income households while remaining a cost effective program as required under the MA Green Communities Act.

Benefits

- Communication among stakeholders at every level
- Understanding of the many different roles involved
- Focus on serving the most vulnerable members in our communities
- Networking between like minded leaders
- Support -understanding the big picture enables agencies to provide assistance when needed without obstructive competition
- We are truly a team

Do you want to join Team Massachusetts?





















Recommendations

- Initiate statewide meeting if one is not already happening
 work with funding source
- Begin talks of creating a coalition (Energy Directors Association) – can be regional for larger states
- Elect or appoint representatives to lead the group (in MA we have a two co-chairs and a secretary)
- Determine how, when and where to hold meetings
- Develop an agenda
- Create additional working groups as needed

Recommendations

Let us be a resource to you!

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Recommendations

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